



COMBAT VETERAN OUTREACH UPDATE

In late May, VA announced that the first phase of a calling program for non-enrolled combat veterans had been completed. Phase one of the outreach effort was to call veterans potentially identified as being ill or injured from combat operation in Afghanistan and Iraq. Phase two will be contacting approximately 500,000 Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) veterans that have been discharged from active duty but have not contacted VA for health care.



A contractor-operated "Combat Veteran Call Center" is making the initial calls on behalf of VA. All potentially sick or injured veterans on VA's list received an offer to appoint a care manager to work with them if they did not already have one. VA care managers ensure veterans receive appropriate care and know about their VA benefits. In the new phase, veterans that have not accessed VA health care will be called and informed of the benefits and services available to them. For five years after their discharge from the military, these combat veterans have special access to VA health care, including screening for signs of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. Approximately 35 percent of the combat veterans eligible for this benefit have accessed VA health care to date, which is much higher than previous conflicts. However, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, James B. Peake, MD, made the commitment to undertake the combat veteran outreach effort to assure further that veterans in need of such services were fully aware of the benefit.

O I & T "COMPUTER CORNER"

STANDARD VISTA FEATURES

?	Used to display menu options or field entry information
??	Display more detailed information from above
^	To end current operation and return to previous location
^aaa	Jump to the prompt starting with the letters aaa
@	Delete the content of this field

To enter a name already in the system, add quotes to the name. For example, enter "*Smith,John*" to add another John Smith.

At a	Enter T for <i>TODAY'S DATE</i>
Date	Enter N for <i>TODAY'S DATE & TIME</i> .
Prompt:	

Anything to the left of // will be entered/accepted when you press return. For example:

DATE: | T// press **ENTER** to accept TODAY's date.

THANK YOU FOR "CELEBRATING OUR DIFFERENCES"

Truman VA's EEO Committee and its Diversity Day planning committee convey appreciation to everyone that contributed to the success of our first Diversity Day celebration on May 22. Each of the Special Emphasis Programs – African American, Native American, Asian Pacific Islander, Hispanics, Federally Employed Women and Persons With Disabilities – had displays. The event's theme was "Celebrating Our Differences." Many employees submitted recipes that were compiled into a recipe book. The Veterans Canteen Service prepared four of the recipes and samples were served of International Coffee Cake, Fried Hominy, Goopy Pumpkin Butter Cake and Porky Pine Meatballs. Several Douglass High School students provided instruction about text messaging and VA volunteers assisted with distribution of the recipe books. Also, representatives from the University of Missouri demonstrated a number of devices and tools designed to assist individuals with disabilities.



Secretary of Veterans Affairs James B. Peake, M.D., paid tribute to VA's top nurses and medical professionals during the Secretary's 2008 Excellence in Nursing and the Advancement of Nursing Programs Award Ceremony held May 12 in VA's Central Office. **Natalie Russell, RN**, of Truman VA was presented the award for Registered Nurse in a Staff Role. Pictured are: Secretary Peake, Russell, Chief Nursing Officer Cathy Rick and Under Secretary for Health Michael J. Kussman, M.D.



ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM? THANK A VETERAN!